

# INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY USSR

DATE DISTR. 110 AUG1949

SUBJECT Foundry and Rolling Mill in Konstantinovka

NO. OF PAGES 2

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The usual conditions prevailed at this camp; clean wooden barracks constructed by the prisoners, only German prisoners among whom were a few officers, inadequate medicines and food, etc.

3. The foundry, to cover an area of approximately 2 x 1 kilometers, is an old plant which has been entirely reconstructed since 1945. Though the present buildings are widely distributed throughout the factory compound, it is expected that the plant's facilities will be expanded in time. The management is in civilian hands and uniforms in the area are relatively rare. Laborers working on new projects are directed by a German PW engineer named Kurt Krätsch.

4. The factory compound can be entered through the main entrance in the southeast corner. On the right hand side of the entrance, parallel to the fence, are long workshops and warehouses. The main thoroughfare of the plant leads directly to the large rolling mill (approximately 450 x 150 meters), the open hearth furnaces (10 to 12), and the two blast furnaces, one of which is for the treatment of iron ore, the other for the treatment of manganese ore. Beyond the far end of the rolling mill there is a new building which is reported to serve as a power station. In the northwest corner of the compound a camp for Russian prisoners is located within the so-called glass factory.

5. Operational coke, produced in the coke works about one mile distant from the Konstantinovka works, is transported over the latter's own funicular railway. In the immediate vicinity of

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Document No. 003  
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Class. CHANGE TO: TS S (C)  
EAC 4 Apr 77  
Auth: DDA 27/1763  
Date: MAY 1977

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the coke works is an electric motor works reported to be in full-scale production. About two kilometers in a westerly direction there is a zinc works, the so-called "Zinc Foundry". The organization's administrative buildings are located in the city. Until the establishment of its own power plant, electricity was procured from the outside.

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6. The factory's installations, re-equipped with German and American machines since the post-war reconstruction, can be considered modern, except for the two blast furnaces, which, ~~are~~ are quite primitive. However, the mechanical installations were carelessly handled and, as a result, made a very bad impression a short time after their assembling had been completed. In the rolling mill, arranged around three rolling trains, each individual installation is separately driven with an electric motor.
7. The Konstantinovka works ~~is~~ <sup>is in a position</sup> to deliver sheet metal plates up to a width of 2 cm; likewise, it produces construction iron and strip iron. The processing of the ore is generally accomplished with red iron stone (Roteneisenstein) which is reported to come from the Ural region. The manganese ore consumed by the works also comes from Ural deposits. The utilization of the ores, which are of variable quality, is carefully observed. Great amounts of Dolomite limestone (Kalkstein) and smaller amounts of old iron slag are used in the mixing process. The tapping routine follows in the nearby tapping tanks (Abstichteiche); the iron is poured into bars while the manganese is separated from its casting in pieces. The refining of the raw iron is done in the nearby open hearths. It then undergoes further processing in the rolling mill for sheet metal and plates.
8. Russian personnel of the Konstantinovka works numbers between 2000 and 3000 workers, including many married women and young girls. Production is based on two or three shifts depending on current demands. Four hundred P's are also employed.

Encl: 1 map

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